

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-06 CU-02 ACDA-07 TRSE-00 DHA-02 BIB-01
/083 W

-----261845Z 127625 /45

R 261647Z APR 77

FM AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9050

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BERN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

AMEMBASSY VALLETTA

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

USMISSION GENEVA

AMCONSUL STRASBOURG

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 DUBLIN 912

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR CSCE EI

SUBJECT: CONSULTATION WITH IRELAND ON CSCE AND THE BELGRADE

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MEETINGS

REF: (A) STATE 87799, (B) LONDON 6360 (NOTAL)

1. WE CONSULTED WITH COUNSELLOR MACKERNAN ON CSCE/
BELGRADE AS INSTRUCTED IN REFTEL, GENERAL,
HE SAID THAT IRELAND SUPPORTS THE U.S. APPROACH TO

BELGRADE, AND EXPECTS THAT THE EC-9 AS A WHOLE WILL HAVE NO SERIOUS OBJECTIONS TO THE U.S. APPROACH. HE HAD SOME SPECIFIC COMMENTS OF POSSIBLE INTEREST.

2. PREPARATORY MEETING. AFTER THE VISIT TO DUBLIN OF ROVING SOVIET ENVOY MENDELEVICH ON APRIL 4-5, THE IRISH HAVE CONCLUDED THAT THE SOVIETS WANT TO SETTLE THE "POLITICAL CONCEPT" OF THE BELGRADE CONFERENCE PRIOR TO THE JUNE PREPARATORY MEETING. IF THIS CANNOT BE AGREED THROUGH BILATERAL APPROACHES, THEN THE SOVIETS WILL ALMOST CERTAINLY BRING IT UP AT THE PREPARATORY CONFERENCE IN MACKERNAN'S OPINION. THE IRISH ARE NOT COMPLETELY SURE OF THE SOVIET DEFINITION OF "POLITICAL CONCEPT", BUT IN GENERAL IT SEEMS TO MEAN A NON-POLEMICAL, FORWARD-LOOKING CONFERENCE WHICH WILL DWELL BRIEFLY ON THE QUALITY OF IMPLEMENTATION OF THE FINAL ACT BUT ESCHEW "CONTENTIOUS QUANTITATIVE" APPROACHES. MACKERNAN SAID THAT AMONG THE EC-9, THE IRISH, DUTCH AND BELGIANS ARE HARD-LINERS AGAINST THIS RUSSIAN ATTEMPT, AND THE GERMANS, FRENCH AND TO A LESSER EXTENT THE BRITISH ARE INCLINED TO BE SOMEWHAT FORTHCOMING TO THE SOVIETS. ONE RESULT OF THIS POSSIBLE POLITICIZING OF THE PREPARATORY CONFERENCE IS THAT SOME COUNTRIES ARE CONSIDERING RAISING THE LEVEL OF THEIR REPRESENTATION. THE IRISH STILL INTEND TO SEND A THREE-MAN TEAM HEADED BY MACKERNAN.

3. STRUCTURE AND ORGANIZATION OF THE MAIN MEETING. THERE IS SOME DISAGREEMENT WITHIN THE EC, AND THE CONFIDENTIAL

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RECENT EC MINISTERS MEETING DECISION (REFTEL B) REPRESENTS A COMPROMISE BETWEEN THE FRENCH AND DUTCH ON ONE SIDE AND THE OTHER SEVEN ON THE OTHER. MACKERNAN'S DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSED FORMULA WAS SLIGHTLY DIFFERENT FROM REFTEL B IN THAT IT PROVIDES FOR A KIND OF ALTERNATING PLAN WHEREBY THE COMMITTEES COULD START MEETING WHILE THE CLOSED PLENARY IS STILL IN SESSION. THE IRISH ARE NOT HAPPY WITH THIS FORMULA FOR THE PURELY PRACTICAL REASON OF THEIR LACK OF PERSON-POWER. THE IRISH PREFER A SEQUENTIAL CONFERENCE.

4. ORGANIZATION OF IMPLEMENTATION REVIEW. MACKERNAN SAID THERE WAS CONSIDERABLE DISAGREEMENT WITHIN THE EC AS TO JUST HOW MUCH THE WEST CAN HOLD THE SOVIETS AND EAST EUROPEANS TO THE FIRE BEFORE THERE IS A HARMFUL EFFECT ON DETENTE. THIS IS CURRENTLY TERMED THE "THRESHOLD CONCEPT" WITH THE GERMANS AND FRENCH PARTICULARLY INCLINED TO DEFINE A LOWER THRESHOLD THAN THE DUTCH, BELGIANS AND IRISH. THE ORGANIZATION, HE SAID, WILL

IN ITSELF SOMEWHAT DEFINE THE LEVEL OF DISCUSSION.
THIS IS WHY, HE BELIEVES, THE RUSSIANS WANT TO GET
SOME KIND OF AGREED POLITICAL CONCEPT BEFORE COMMITTING
THEMSELVES, WHEREAS THE MAJORITY OF THE EC WANTS TO
HAVE A FAIRLY THOROUGH REVIEW IN COMMITTEES.

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 DUBLIN 0912

5. NEW PROPOSALS. THE IRISH HAVE NO NEW PROPOSALS.

6. FINAL DOCUMENT. THE IRISH, AND APPARENTLY THE
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REST OF THE EC-9, VERY STRONGLY AGREE WITH THE USG ON
THIS POINT. THE DOCUMENT SHOULD BE SOME KIND OF
SIMPLE, UNSIGNED COMMUNIQUE WITH A COMPLETELY DIFFERENT
AND MUCH LOWER STATUS THAN THE HELSINKI FINAL ACT.
THE LOGICAL POINT TO WORK IT OUT WOULD BE IN THE
"PRE-FINAL CLOSED PLENARY".

7. POST BELGRADE EXPERTS MEETING. MACKERNAN SAID
THAT HE WAS AWARE THAT THE BELGIANS WERE TOYING WITH AN
IDEA OF A HUMAN RIGHTS EXPERTS GROUP. IF SUCH A
GROUP WERE PROPOSED, IRELAND WOULD FIND IT DIFFICULT
TO OPPOSE BECAUSE OF ITS STAND ON HUMAN RIGHTS.

8. MEDITERRANEAN ISSUES. ACCORDING TO MACKERNAN
THE ITALIANS WANT TO ENLARGE THE ROLE OF THE MEDITERRANEAN
GROUP, BUT AS HE UNDERSTOOD IT, THEY WOULD BE QUITE
SATISFIED WITH MERELY SOME OPTICAL FORMULA WHICH WOULD
NOT REALLY CHANGE THE STATUS OR CHARACTER. THE MAIN
OBJECT HERE IS TO INSULATE THE CONFERENCE FROM THE
MIDDLE-EAST PROBLEM.

9. INCIDENTALLY, A YUGOSLAV DELEGATION IS CURRENTLY
IN DUBLIN TO DISCUSS CSCE AND OPENING OF DIPLOMATIC
RELATIONS. THE IRISH EXPECT TO OPEN (NON-RESIDENT)
RELATIONS PRIOR TO THE JUNE MEETING. THEY ARE
HAVING SOME PRACTICAL PROBLEMS, E.G., THE YUGOSLAVES
WANT TO CHARGE TWELVE THOUSAND DOLLARS PER WEEK FOR
AN OFFICE SUITE FOR THE IRISH TO USE DURING THE
CONFERENCE* CURLEY

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